

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Support BellSouth / AT&T Merger, WC Docket No. 06-74**

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing you as President of Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama to ask for your quick approval of the merger of AT&T and BellSouth. This merger combines two of America's most respected companies with complementary strengths and a heritage of philanthropic and volunteer support to the African-American community.

African-American individuals and businesses are an important and fast growing segment of Alabama's economy. We are increasingly dependent upon advanced broadband technologies to grow our businesses, educate our children and enhance the quality of our lives.

First, the newly merged company has proposed a \$10 monthly residential broadband Internet service offering. Second, any current AT&T-BellSouth customer using dial-up service will be offered a free upgrade to DSL, including a free modem. Third, "stand-alone" DSL will be offered to customers at a competitive rate, thereby no longer requiring customers to also purchase voice service. Most importantly, AT&T and BellSouth have made a commitment to deploy high-speed Internet service to rural areas and lower-income living units. All of these provisions will have a tremendous positive economic impact for African-Americans.

To ensure greater availability of broadband services to the African-American community, I strongly encourage prompt approval of the merger of BellSouth and AT&T. The merger promises to bring about *affordable* and *universal* broadband access for all of our citizens, including those in low income and rural areas who need it the most. This will greatly enrich the lives and economic prosperity of all of our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Jennings  
President  
Alabama A&M University  
P.O. Box 1357  
Normal, AL. 35762

